INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

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SEPT 27

SUBJ: CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY: SEPT 27 MORNING SESSION

1. FOLLOWING OPENING SPEECHES BY PRIME MINISTER KY, CHIEF OF STATE THIEU AND ACTING ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT NGUYEN BA LUONG, ASSEMBLY BEGAN TO GET DOWN TO BUSINESS, LUONG PRESIDING.

2. DEPUTIES TOOK TURNS AT MICROPHONE, DEBATING QUESTION OF WHAT TO DO FIRST. NUMBER OF MEMBERS PROPOSED THAT INITIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS SHOULD BE DISCUSSION OF AGENDA. ANOTHER WANTED AS ASSEMBLY'S FIRST ACT OF ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION SETTING FORTH ASSEMBLY "VIEWPOINT", INCLUDING CONDEMNATION OF COMMUNISTS. HOWEVER, CONSENSUS, REPRESENTED BY DR. PHAN QUANG DAN AND LE TAI HOA AMONG OTHERS, PROPOSED THAT ASSEMBLY FIRST ELECT TEMPORARY DEPUTIES TO ASSIST ACTING PRESIDENT LUONG AND ACTING SECRETARY-GENERAL NGUYEN HUU HIEP.

2. ENTIRE EXCHANGE LASTED LESS THAN THIERTY MINUTES, DURING WHICH 10-12 DEPUTIES GOT TO PODIUM. (AT ONE POINT TWO MEMBERS ARRIVED THERE SIMULTANEOUSLY. ONE OF THEM, TRAN THE MINH OF SAIGON, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF HIM SUPERIOR BULK, PREVAILED.)

3. ACTING PRESIDENT LUONG, TAKING NOTE OF ENTHUSIASTIC DEBATE DEVELOPING ON WHAT WAS TO BE ONLY CEREMONIAL OCCASION, RECESSED ASSEMBLY FOR THE MORNING. IT WILL RECONVENE AT 3:00 PM, APPARENTLY TO ELECT ACTING DEPUTY SECRETARIES GENERAL.

LODGE
BT

NOTE: Advance copy to S/S-O at 2:17 a.m., September 27, 1966

NOTE: Passed White House, DOD, CIA, USIA, NSA at 2:17 a.m., 9/27/66

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